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of

Marshall Pinckney Wilder.

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Marshall P. Wilder

PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT OF THE NEW-ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.

A

MEMORIAL ADDRESS

ON THE LATE

MARSHALL PINCKNEY WILDER

PRESIDENT

OF THE

NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

BY THE
REV ANDREW P PEABODY D.D., LL.D.

[DELIVERED BEFORE THE SOCIETY JANUARY 18, 1888]

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

At the annual meeting of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, January 5, 1887, it was voted that an address in memory of the late president, Marshall Pinckney Wilder, LL.D., be delivered before the Society at a convenient time, and the matter was referred to the Directors with full powers. The Rev. Dr. Peabody accepted an invitation to perform the duty, and a committee of arrangements was chosen consisting of the president, Mr. Abner C. Goodell, Jr., the Rev. Henry A. Hazen, the Hon. Charles L. Flint, Mr. Hamilton A. Hill and Mr. Cyrus Woodman. The time fixed for the address was Wednesday, January 18, 1888, and the Massachusetts Horticultural Society opened its Hall for the occasion. A large number of ladies and gentlemen were present, the latter representing various societies and institutions in which Mr. Wilder had been interested. The president, Mr. Goodell, opened the proceedings with the following remarks:

"Friends and Associates:

When a good man dies — one who has contributed to the elevation and happiness of his fellow-men by his example of pure

and noble living, or by his resistance, either in the field, through the press, or on the rostrum, to some great public wrong, or by his successful efforts to increase the physical comfort or the intellectual growth of mankind — the living pause not merely to lament and condole: the shock, the grief, the sense of irretrievable loss, are accompanied by a desire to know more of his character and his personal history; to trace his

"Foot-prints on the sands of time;"

to review his acts of beneficence; to commend his example; to compare his deeds with those of other benefactors who have preceded him, and to assign to him a place in the temple of fame.

This is the purpose to which we are to devote a brief hour stolen from the routine of life's duties to-day.

On Thursday, the 16th of December, 1886, expired Marshall Pinckney Wilder, who for nineteen years, by successive annual elections, held the office of President of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, to the members of which he was endeared, not more by the munificent gifts which the Society had received through his exertions, than by strong personal attachments formed independently of the official relations he held to them.

Appropriate notice of his decease was taken at the annual meeting of the Society last year; and it was resolved by the Board of Directors to set apart a special time for a commemorative discourse, at a place convenient for the assembling, not only of the members of this Society, but of others who have been associated with him in trade, in offices of trust and honor, or as members of other corporate bodies.

The hour appointed in accordance with that resolution has arrived, and the life now closed is to be fittingly reviewed by one preëminently qualified for the task, who has laid aside other duties in order to gratify the wish of the Society that he address us upon this occasion.

This gentleman, universally beloved and venerated in New England, needs no introduction. It, therefore, only remains for me to ask you to listen to the words of the Rev. Dr. Peabody."

At a meeting of the Directors of the Society, January 23, 1888, a vote was unanimously adopted, heartily thanking Dr. Peabody for his address, and asking for a copy for publication. He complied with the request, and the discourse is now printed under the direction of the committee of arrangements.

ADDRESS.

St. Paul advised Titus to avoid genealogies, not, however, those of men, but those of the æons with which in complicated series of mystic generations the Gnostic theosophy had peopled the entire realm between God and man. As to human genealogies, inasmuch as Titus was a Christian pastor, St. Paul, I have no doubt, would have bidden him to study them, and would have told him that they were fully of as much worth to him in making him acquainted with the flock of Cretians under his charge as the pedigree of their sheep could be to the shepherds on Mount Ida. The diagnosis of his parents and his grandparents is the prognosis, the horoscope of the child. We have many New England surnames which stand this day for traits bodily, mental and moral that belonged to those who bore the same names two hundred or two hundred and fifty years ago. In some cases the traits are intensified in their transmission; in others, where there has been intermarriage with families of strong peculiarities, they are slightly attenuated. In the children of the female members of one of these old families, you can always trace tokens of the mother's lineage,

which may, however, cease to be distinctly observable in their children. Thus all the Wilders that I have known have belonged to the normal Wilder type, and so have the children of mothers who were Wilders; but in their children I have sometimes failed to recognize the type.

The Wilders, in general, have a substantial physique, stout without plethora, fitted to do good service, to wear well and to last long. In mind, they have ability rather than genius. They have method, exactness, large powers of acquisition, the capacity to utilize to the full whatever they acquire, and a sufficient degree of reasonable self-confidence to secure such success as they merit. I should not expect to find poets among them; but Professor Burt Green Wilder, who has no superior, few equals, as a scientist in certain departments of physiology, belongs by good right to the family whose name he bears. The same mental characteristics, with a different training, would make the expert accountant, the skilled and far-seeing financier, the deservedly prosperous merchant, the citizen, who, by integrity, discretion and public spirit wins and holds a leader's place among his fellow-citizens. The family has had among its members no small amount of enterprise, judicious, however, not rash, hazardous or speculative; and, what is of more worth, it has shown tenacity of purpose and persistency of endeavor. The number of college graduates among

them has been comparatively small. This, perhaps, is due mainly to the fact that the principal family-centres have not been on what I might call college meridians. Among the graduates that the family has furnished there have not been wanting eminent scholars; and in the college class next before my own there was a Wilder very near the head of the class, whom his classmates regarded as second to no one among them in ability, moral worth and high promise, but who died in less than six months after graduating.

As regards moral character, the Wilder family has been above the plane of virtuous mediocrity. There are, on the family tree, no branches and few offshoots which they might wish to have pruned away, many that have borne rich fruit. The first immigrant Wilders were undoubtedly among those who sought in the infant colony a religious asylum, and the general aspect of the line gives the impression of pervading religious faith and reverence. The family have, in great part, remained in the ranks of normal New England orthodoxy, the chief divergence, so far as I can learn, having been where I should not have expected it, toward Swedenborgianism.

The Wilder family originated in Berks county, England, where Nicholas Wilder, an adherent and friend of Henry VII., received as a gift from him a valuable estate still in the possession of his de-

scendants. Thomas Wilder, who was born on that estate, emigrated to New England, became a member of the church in Charlestown in 1640, and was one of the earliest settlers of Nashawena, now Lancaster, whither he removed in 1654, and where he owned a farm of five hundred acres. He was one of the selectmen of the new town. He seems to have been a man of high character and of no little influence, and it appears from records still extant that, as a church member, he maintained the rights of the brethen as against clerical encroachment and domination.

Ephraim, of the sixth generation from him, was born in the part of Lancaster that is now Sterling, was one of the chief men in the town and county, held various and important public offices, and was a member of the Massachusetts Convention that adopted the Constitution of the United States. He married Lucretia, the daughter of Samuel Locke, a native of Woburn, who early became a resident and a large landholder in Lancaster, and was favorably known as a business man, an office-holder and a man of intelligence, integrity and honor. This Lucretia Locke was the sister, probably the stronger sister, of a learned, but weak man, who was for three or four years president of Harvard College, and who signalized himself by delivering an oration in Chaldee at the Commencement succeeding his election to office, which, it is safe to affirm, is

more than any one of his successors could have done.

The Locke family with which Ephraim Wilder became allied by marriage, has in its register a wonderfully large number and diversity of honored names, and brings this branch of the Wilder family into kindred more or less remote with not a few men of eminent reputation in literature, in the learned professions and in public life. The ninth and youngest child of this marriage was Samuel Locke Wilder, who was born in 1778. He was the father of our late president. His brother Josiah, eight years his senior, in 1794 established himself in Rindge, N. H., opening one of those general country stores, in which it was hard to say what commodities of use, ornament or luxury could not be found, and which were the procreant cradles of many of the largest fortunes of a former generation. His brother Samuel went with him as his clerk, and a few years later became his partner. Samuel's record is worthy of reverent and grateful memory by his posterity. He was one of those strong pillars of the social fabric, which, while they stand firm, look as if they could never be replaced. He represented the town of Rindge in the legislature for thirteen years, and was a justice of the peace for forty-seven years. He was a loyal member of the Congregational church, and its pastor's faithful coadjutor in Christian work. He seems to have been associated with whatever

could contribute to the well-being of the community, and, best of all, he gave it his own example of a blameless, pure, upright and beneficent life. A not unlike character had been borne by Jonathan Sherwin, whose tenth and youngest child in 1797 became the wife of Samuel Locke Wilder. The distinguished moral worth and power of usefulness which evidently marked the Sherwin family in their quiet rural homes, became conspicuous in Thomas Sherwin, Mrs. Wilder's nephew, who is well remembered as principal of the English High School of this city, and as one of the great teachers who have made their profession illustrious. Mrs. Wilder possessed in rich measure the gifts and graces of a truly Christian woman, and lived to train under the best home influences a family of nine children, seven of whom, the youngest then nearly thirty years of age, survived her.

I have in hand ample and interesting materials for a much fuller family history. Did time permit, I should use them; for a large and often the best part of a man's life is written before he is born, and unless he has taken pains to unwrite it, needs to be rewritten in his biography. Our president entered on a good inheritance; it remains for me to show how he used it.

Our president, the eldest child of Samuel Locke and Annie Sherwin Wilder, was born at Rindge, on the 22d of September, 1798. Why he was named

Marshall Pinckney I do not know, but I can easily conjecture. I can find no Marshall Pinckney in any dictionary of American biography. But our president's father was a zealous Federalist, and there was no subsequent time when there was more intense party feeling than in 1798. At that time John Marshall and Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, both eminent in the Federalist ranks, and united in a mission to France with Elbridge Gerry, had been ousted with gross indignity by the French revolutionary government, while their democratic colleague Gerry had been suffered to remain. A cry of indignation ran through the land. The rejected envoys became the twin idols of their party, and young Wilder, as I suppose, expressed his sense of the outrage inflicted on them, and of their transcendent merit, by conferring on his first-born the two names then inseparable in honor with one of the great political parties, and in abuse by the other.

Rindge was settled by persons of a high order of intelligence for their time, as was that whole region of New Hampshire. In addition to the public schools, a private school was generally maintained, and we find on the list of teachers Dr. Payson, of Portland, then a recent graduate of Harvard; and there are others, if of less eminence, well known for their ability and social standing. Young Marshall began to go to school at four years of age, and that he was not an unapt pupil may be inferred from

an extant letter of his, written when he was six years old, a child's letter, as it ought to have been, but in orthography and syntax absolutely faultless. Yet he was probably indebted less to his early schools than to the social atmosphere in which he grew up. The minister of his boyhood was the elder Dr. Payson, whose fame, though eclipsed by that of his more brilliant son, was hardly second to his in the substantial qualities which made him the foremost man, not only in the town of his residence, but among the clergy of Cheshire county. The shaping power, in manners, culture and character, of the country ministers of New England in the first two decades of this century can hardly be imagined by those who are not old enough to have witnessed it.

The boy whose history we are tracing attended school in his native town till the age of twelve, then was sent to the Academy at New Ipswich, and afterward was under private tuition till at sixteen he was fitted for college, and his father gave him his choice between a college education, a business life and the life of a farmer. He chose the latter, probably as a born son of the soil, from the native and inevitable instinct which determined to so large a degree the philanthropic industry of his later years. He worked on his father's farm long enough to acquire and retain through life the elementary practical knowledge, on which scientific knowledge could be so engrafted as to make it serviceable,

in very much the same way in which an architect derives lifelong benefit from having been apprenticed to a carpenter in his boyhood.

But his uncle had been removed by death, and the business which he had founded had increased so rapidly, as at once to need young Wilder's services and to promise for them an ample reward. He therefore became his father's clerk, and on attaining his majority was made partner in the concern. At the same time he was appointed postmaster of the town. The following year he was united in marriage with a fellow townswoman, in many respects of kindred spirit, of lovely character, superior culture and winning manners, whose death, after a union of eleven years, was his first great sorrow, and probably the greatest sorrow of his life.

He showed as a young man the versatile genius, which gave him in maturer years so many and very diverse connections with society. He was skilled in sacred music, officiated as chorister on important occasions, and as a performer on the bass-viol was leader of the village orchestra. In common with the best citizens of his day, he took an active interest in military affairs, bore the most laborious part in the formation of the Rindge Light Infantry of which he was the first captain, and obtained, as colonel of a New Hampshire regiment, the title by which he was afterward known. As a field-officer *emeritus* he subsequently became a member of the

Ancient and Honorable Artillery, and was at one time the commander of that corps. He attained high masonic honors while still a citizen of Rindge, though it was not till his removal to Boston that he reached the supreme grade, from which, in 1867, he went to Paris as the delegate of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and was the only American whose voice was then and there heard in the World's Convention of Masons.

But Mr. Wilder was in training for a larger sphere, and in the best possible training for a more extended commerce. There have not been wanting conspicuous instances in which merchants of established reputation have formed their habits of diligence, punctuality, thrift without meanness, generosity without ostentation, and especially, of probity and integrity, in precisely such a school as was afforded by the variety-shop in Rindge. Mr. Wilder left Rindge for Boston at the age of twenty-six, his father shortly afterward retiring from the business, which passed into the hands of his son-in-law, Stephen B. Sherwin, and his younger son, Josiah. Mr. Wilder on his removal to this city entered upon the wholesale dry-goods business, and in this, as dealer and importer, he continued, sometimes with, sometimes without, a partner, until he became a partner in a commission house for the sale of domestic fabrics, with offices both in Boston and in New York. He lived to say on his eighty-fifth

birthday:—"I have been constantly in business for nearly threescore years in this city, and I beg to assure you, my friends, that there is no title which I prize more highly than that of an upright, intelligent and enterprising merchant of Boston." When we consider what sort of men they were who before his time had given to Boston merchants their world-wide fame for every trait that could make their profession what it ought to be, it indicates the most strong and estimable qualities of mind and heart for one to say this before the men who knew him best, and to have their unanimous suffrage for his merited place on that roll of honor, without a momentary shadow on his integrity and trustworthiness. It is worthy of note, too, that with him, as with so many of like type, the strait way of honest, fair, and faithful dealing led to prosperity and affluence, while more crooked paths have been strewn with the wrecks of fortune no less than of character. With vigilance at least equal to that which our president bestowed on his own property he watched that committed to his charge. He did not regard himself as relieved from responsibleness by sharing it with others. As a director of one corporation for more than half a century, of another for more than forty years, of others still for shorter periods, he made such trusts veritably his own, not sinecures, but posts of personal service, and in those times of financial embarrassment which

have not been infrequent, of arduous and anxious duty.

Of political honors he was not ambitious, and seems to have accepted office, not because he sought it, but because he was sought for it, and to demands for service of whatsoever kind he had never learned to say "No." Thirty-eight years ago, he was president of the senate of Massachusetts, having previously been a member of the lower house and of the executive council. At that time, I think, it would have been discreditable in this state for a man to contribute to his own election by money, speech or canvassing, so that choice by a respectable constituency was what it no longer is, a certificate of character.

Mr. Wilder's devotion to horticulture, which his early tastes made inevitable, was probably hastened by his bereavement. Under the shadow of deep grief, he naturally sought a more quiet abode than his city home, and in 1831 he became a tenant of the house and grounds in Dorchester, built and laid out by Governor Sumner, which he bought the next year, and occupied for the residue of his life. He now found the most congenial employment for his leisure hours, and as he was always an early riser, he had no small part of the solid day for his garden, greenhouses and fruit trees. He brought to this new life just the kind and degree of knowledge which could not fail of growth.

Had he been brought up in the city or on a place like the Sumner estate, he would have been content to let things take their course without essential change. But he abandoned the culture of his father's farm and came to this widely different sphere of operation with knowledge enough to enable him to ask questions that could be answered, and to try experiments intelligently, so that the questions which he put to nature received their gainful answers; while his experiments, wisely directed, were oftener than not successful, and when not so, their failure had a teaching power for the apt and mindful learner.

It was but a little while after his removal to Dorchester that he became a member of the infant Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and intimately associated with its first president, General Henry A. S. Dearborn, who had in his time no superior in taste for the beautiful and in generous propagandism of all that appertained to æsthetic culture. Whether the earliest important enterprise of that society was an improvement upon nature, I am one of the few who can claim the privilege of doubting. In what to my younger hearers may seem a prehistoric age, I was a member of Harvard College, and regarded Sweet Auburn as the loveliest spot on earth, rich in the earliest and latest wild flowers of the season, the anemone and violet, the goldenrod and aster, commanding unobstructed views of

river, field and forest, town and village, and the favorite haunt of our Saturday afternoon pilgrimages. This charming spot the Horticultural Society purchased for what then seemed the enormous price of six thousand dollars, with the intention of making a cemetery of a part of it and an experimental garden of the rest. The cemetery portion was laid out. I well remember, in 1832, attending the dedicatory service, at which Judge Story gave the address, and but a little while after I followed what was mortal of the celebrated Spurzheim in the first funeral procession that entered those gates. Mr. Wilder bore an active part in that movement, and was ready, as on all like occasions, with his generous subscription. After a year or two it was found that the interests united in this purchase could be better pursued apart, and the Mount Auburn Corporation bought the estate of the Horticultural Society, pledging to the society one-fourth of the proceeds from the sale of lots. This agreement was proposed by Mr. Wilder, when the committees of conference of the two corporations were on the point of separating, in despair of alighting on any plan that would be mutually satisfactory. The result was the cemetery of which you all know the conspicuous beauties and the glaring deformities, and an annual income to the Horticultural Society of from three to ten thousand dollars, from which was erected the hall in School street, on the present

site of the Parker House, replaced a few years later by the building in which we are now assembled.

In 1840 Mr. Wilder was chosen President of the society, and remained in office for eight years, during which period he officiated at the laying of the corner stone, and superintended the erection, of the first hall, and presided at two triennial festivals of peculiar interest for their brilliant array of illustrious guests.

In the practice of ornamental horticulture, Mr. Wilder bore the leading part which might have been expected from his official position. He at one time had no less than three hundred varieties of the camelia, many of them produced by his own experiments in hybridization. His attention was at the same time directed to the culture of fruit, especially of pears, of which he had eight hundred varieties on his own grounds. Before retiring from office in the Horticultural Society he issued a circular calling a convention of fruit growers, which was held in New York, and resulted in an organization, first called "The American Congress of Fruit-Growers," subsequently and still bearing the name of "The American Pomological Society." Of this he was the first president, and remained in office until his death, giving instructive addresses at the triennial meetings, which, held in different sections of the country, have been of more service than can be easily estimated

in improving and multiplying the products of this department of industry and enterprise.

But he was not content with flowers and fruit. With his native farmer instinct he applied himself to the more necessary, though with our present facilities of exchange and transportation, hardly to us more useful, departments of agriculture. In 1849 he took a leading part in the formation of the Norfolk Agricultural Society, was chosen its president, and in the autumn of that year delivered at its first annual Cattle Show an address upon agricultural education, which had no little influence in calling attention to a need of our community, which now seems too obvious to be specified, but which then had hardly found its way to the public mind. He held this presidency in active duty for twenty years, and then was made honorary president, in gratitude for his preëminent usefulness in advancing the various arts appertaining to garden, orchard and farm, and for his special services and benefactions to that particular society.

In the matter of agricultural education, Mr. Wilder was, as I have intimated, a pioneer. The year after his Dedham address, when he was President of the Senate, he prepared a bill for the establishment of an agricultural college, which passed the Senate by a unanimous vote, but was lost in the lower House, where the proportion of farmers was much larger than in the Senate, so that the vote

shows that those who were most intimately concerned in the matter were utterly unaware how much it concerned them. Mr. Wilder, however, succeeded in obtaining the passage of a resolve for the appointment of a Board of Commissioners to investigate the subject of agricultural schools. Of this commission he was made chairman, and he guaranteed the expenses, afterward assumed by the state, of President Hitchcock of Amherst College, in visiting and examining European institutions of this kind. The result was the establishment of the Amherst Agricultural College, of which he was the first-named trustee, which he kept for the remainder of his life under wise and faithful supervision, and which he enriched by more than a thousand trees and plants removed at his own cost and charge from his own estate.

He was also president of the Massachusetts Central Board of Agriculture until it became a department of state administration, still remaining a member of the Board when its executive functions were committed to a salaried secretary.

Mr. Wilder also took the initiative in calling the convention which formed the United States Agricultural Society, of which he was president for six years, acting in that capacity at exhibitions in five different states.

I have given but an imperfect outline of Mr. Wilder's labors as a loyal son of the soil; to describe

them in full would transcend the outside possible limits of a commemorative address. His eminent services were fully recognized by votes and costly testimonials from the societies which he served, and by the honorary membership of kindred societies, equally in this country and on the continent of Europe. His work was not only warmly appreciated; it was genuine and efficient work, and probably greater than received distinct recognition. His was not *a*, but *the* leading mind in improvements that have contributed largely to the general health, comfort and well-being. It is not many years since good fruit was rare and costly, and even apples in alternate years were few and dear. The meanest table can now command more and better fruit than could be afforded thirty years ago by families far above want; and it is easy to imagine how far a luxury so appetizing and so wholesome may check the craving for indulgences both harmful and perilous, and may relieve the barrenness and meagreness of diet which in former times made a poor home look and seem all the poorer. I have no doubt that the progress would have taken place if Mr. Wilder had never lived; for inventors, discoverers and leaders in every department are never possible till in the onward movement of society their work is inevitable. But none the less worthy of honor is he who so reads the times as to anticipate the dawn of the near future, and to hasten its advent.

I can barely allude to the many and various public positions which Mr. Wilder filled at different times, as President of the Association of the Sons of New Hampshire; as a Commissioner of the United States at the Paris Exposition of the World's Industries in 1867, at which he served as chairman in his own special department of horticulture; as presiding officer on several commemorative occasions of commanding interest in Dorchester; as made first and foremost in numerous instances in which the leading place could be filled only by one whom the community could trust and honor, and only with the labor and sacrifice which for a worthy purpose he was always ready to bestow.

The Society which I represent to-day owes to Mr. Wilder no common weight of grateful obligation. Under the presidency of the late Governor Andrew who, when he died, left no better man behind him, it had indeed attained a position of honor and usefulness which promised well for its future; yet it was poor in funds, inadequately housed, and scantily furnished for its specific work. You will not charge me with over-statement when I say that for the nineteen years of Mr. Wilder's presidency he could not have done more for the society without transcending the fitnesses and limits of his office, and that, if this had been his sole charge, it would have been difficult for him to magnify it more in assiduous and gainful service than he did while it was but one of several not unlike places

which he was all the while filling with like painstaking fidelity. One of his earliest enterprises was the purchase and remodelling of the building in Somerset street; among the latest, the raising of funds for its enlargement. In the subscription for both these purposes, as in that for the fund for the librarian's salary, he set his wonted example of munificence, which was followed in great measure by the prestige of his name and through his personal efforts and influence. Under his administration the permanent property of the society (including its real estate) increased not less than twenty fold, while he left its library at least three times as large as he found it. You are aware, too, with how much dignity, courtesy and grace he presided at our meetings, what uniformly kind reception he gave to those who have contributed to their interest by specially prepared papers and in less formal utterances, and with what judicious skill, timeliness in subject and in illustration, elaborate finish of style, generous recognition of the broad range of knowledge and science within our legitimate scope, he has appeared before you in those admirable annual addresses, the last, with characteristic forethought, left so fully ready for delivery that the reverent listening to it was the most impressive of the tributes which at your first meeting after his death you could render to his memory.

I have spoken of our president as a merchant from his boyhood till his death; yet had he re-

mained in active business, he could hardly have performed such a vast amount of service, and especially have performed it during the last quarter-century of eighty-eight years, a period oftener than not, spent by those who live so long, in retirement and ease. His old age of strenuous industry for the interests very near his heart was due to what most men would have deemed disabling infirmity. Early in 1863 he fell heavily on frozen ground, and received a severe shock which, though at first chiefly affecting the limbs, undoubtedly occasioned a permanent lesion of the brain. In the next ensuing June he had an attack of vertigo, after which he had not a moment's respite from pain in the head and a sensation which he described as like the incessant shaking of a bowl of water in the cerebral region. From that time he left the management of the business, in which he was still a partner, to the junior members of the firm, and was thus free for labor in a larger field. But imagine the energy of character, the stress of will-power, which refused to succumb to what to most men would have sounded the retreat from care and effort, yet only launched him into a career of more abundant labor and more extended usefulness.

In my narrative of our president's life I have virtually sketched his character, so that a prolonged eulogy would be but a repetition of what has been as fully implied as if it had been expressly said. Yet I ought not to close without recalling in

brief some of the prominent traits of his life and work.

We cannot but admire the diligence and breadth of his self-culture. With a good foundation, indeed, of home and school education, he can have built up the superstructure, only in the intervals of almost unintermitted toil and responsibility, and by an economy of time rarely equalled; and yet his is a case under a general law verified by my life-long observation, that time is elastic only when well-filled,— that it is they who do the most that always have room for more.

His writings which, if collected, would make many volumes, impress me by their accuracy, chasteness and euphony of style, by their uniform appropriateness to occasion and subject, and by the evidently philanthropic purpose that pervades them.

This purpose, indeed, underlies his whole character. He was ambitious; but his ambition was to be useful. He liked distinction, but as a benefactor of his race. He was generous, and—what is of far greater praise—his liberal gifts were from what was rightfully his own, the proceeds of faithful industry and honest enterprise. Best of all, he gave himself, mind, and heart, and soul. All that he was he put into his work; and when a man like him, of sound and well furnished mind, of uncorrupt integrity, of stainless purity, of a life fair and honorable in every aspect, gives himself in any worthy cause, the gift far transcends any pecuniary estimate.

I know from ample testimony how dear and precious he was in his own home and to the hearts made desolate by his departure. It was his grief, we trust that it is now his joy, that his household was more than equally divided,—that there were more waiting for him than stayed to mourn, not for him, but for themselves. His repeated and severe bereavements only enhanced his tenderness and multiplied his offices of love for those that remained with him, and enlarged the circle of his beneficent sympathies.

He could not have been all that he was but for the Christian faith inbreathed by his saintly mother, hallowed by the memory of a father whose upright walk among men was a walk with God, confirmed and matured by the temptations of early life in which it made him conqueror, by the successes to which it gave its healthful ministry, by the sorrows in which it was the rainbow on the cloud. The prayer that he and those gathered with him at the family altar might be led in the paths of salvation had hardly died upon his lips, when for him it had its sudden, appalling, blessed, glorious answer. We are thankful that he lived so long and so well,—thankful that for him the fair volume of life was written through by his own hand with no appended record of inability, decline and decay. Happy he who thus passes, without intermission, from faithful work on earth to the nobler work of heaven.

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